لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

إن الدين عند الله الإسلام

THE REVIEW OF RELIGIONS

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Hijrat 1348—May 1969

EDITORS

S. D. AHMAD **M. G. AHMAD**

THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM

The Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, was born in 1835 at Qadian, a village in India. In the eighties of the 19th century, he was called to the office of world Reformer to combat the current of anti-religious philosophies and to explode the Christian theory of redemption based on the fiction of Christ's death on the Cross and to tell the Christians and Muslims to call off their hope for a second visit from Christ as he had been gathered to his forefathers and barred like all mortals from coming back to the world; and that he, the Promised Messiah, had come instead.

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The Promised Messiah initiated the Ahmadiyya Movement to revive faith in God, challenging rival churches to a spiritual contest to seek Divine sanction for the religion He favoured, through prayer and appeal to Him for guidance and arbitration in the matter, by means of His signs, to re-establish the glory of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, to expound and disseminate spiritual beauties and moral excellences of the teachings of the Holy Quran, to wean men from war - like tendencies and to educate world opinion in favour of renunciation of war as a means of settling disputes, to infuse hope, faith and courage in the drooping hearts of Muslims and all the depressed races and nations of the world, to warn the exploiters, slave-drivers, and pedlars in sin against the evil consequences of their evil ways, to collect under one banner all the true followers of Islam and lovers of peace and to inculcate among them the spirit of tolerance, good-will and self-less fellow-service and a feeling of true brotherhood.

The Promised Messiah passed away in 1908 and was succeeded by his foremost votary and closest companion, Hazrat Haji Hakim Maulvi Nooruddin, Khalifatul Masih I. After his death in 1914, the Promised Son of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Haji Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad, was chosen as Khalifatul Masih II. During his 52-year long leadership, the Khalifatul Masih II organized a world-girdling chain of mosques and missions. On his death on November 8, 1965, the electoral college named, with one accord, Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad, the late Khalifatul Masih's son and the Promised Messiah's grandson, Khalifatul Masih III.

For further information about the Movement, its activities and aims and objectives and literature, enquiries may be addressed to the nearest Ahmadiyya Mission or direct to

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It is open to all for discussing problems connected with the religious and spiritual growth of man, but does not give any assurance to publish all articles, nor does it accept responsibility for views expressed by contributors.

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The priority Item: Learning the Quran

In the course of his Friday sermon delivered at Rabwah on April 4, 1969, the Khalifatul Masih III, addressing the Community in general and the *Musi* Ahmadies (who have made wills in terms of the Promised Messiah's call) in particular, said, "Lately the Musies (both men and women) had been organized as a body. I had in mind some assignment for them. But some obstacles arose and only the organizational phase could be handled. Perhaps an element of negligence crept into it, as, so far it had not been charged with any particular duty.

What God had willed was that this organization should concern itself initially with the study and teaching of the Holy Quran. Now wherever this organization has been formed, the concerned branch presidents and vice-presidents should after a survey to be carried out in one month's time, report (1) the number of Musies in their respective circles.

(2) The number of those who can read the text of the Holy Quran, of those who know its translation and how many of them are engaged in the study of its commentary. The Promised Messiah did not lay the foundation of the "Will Organization" on dedication to the cause of Allah 1/10 of the individual property of the donor making the commitment under its provisions. This was, in fact, the lowest slab of sacrifice that had been offered to the intending Musi—dedicatees. The real objective of the founding of the "Will Organization" was perfect disciplining in pious conduct and putting within the reach of men opportunities of negotiating the heights of righteousness, according to the measure of their respective capacities which man receives from his Lord through the gift of a new life. The Promised Messiah has in one comprehensive sentence summed up the obligations of a Musi. He says "The third term is this: One entitled to be burried in this cemetery must be a pious person keeping off the prohibitions and involved in no manner of *shirk* (association of any partner or factor with One God) and innovation (and) should be a true and clean Muslim". (Al-Wasiyyat).

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In fact, the Ahmadiyya Movement was *founded to raise* such a group and a community prepared to render every kind of sacrifice, to establish the Islamic faith in their hearts and to work for the ascendancy of Islam in the world. It is evident that a Musi who has no knowledge of the Holy Quran can hardly be expected to measure up to this term. He never can implement it. In order therefore to serve the basic objective of the "Wasiyyat organization", it is imperative that each Musi should know how to read the text of the Holy Quran, its translation and should keep himself fully and wholeheartedly engaged in studying its commentary.

The commentary of the Holy Quran is not as easily grasped as the translation of the Holy Book which is comparatively easily understood as one goes through it. There are posited in the Holy Quran limitless treasures of knowledge. It is therefore

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that I am not requiring of every Musi to be proficient in its commentary. We don't find a single person in the world having complete comprehension of the entire meaning of the Holy Quran. For, from this sealed Book new sciences continue gushing forth continuously adding to the sum - total of human knowledge. The Holy Quran guides to a diversity of sciences. It is therefore not possible to acquire complete mastery over the commentary of the Holy Quran. It is however possible and even obligatory on every Muslim, particularly the members of the Wasiyyat Organization to involve themselves fully and wholeheartedly in cultivating the sciences of the Quran. May God bless their efforts. If, however, they are ignorant of the Quran and of its content, they cannot honor even the basic term of the 'Will' commitment. It is therefore important that a *Musi* should not only know how to read the Holy Quran, he should also know its meaning and keep himself engaged in the study of its comentary. If there has been negligence in this behalf before, it should be cut out now. I feel a period of six months should be sufficient for a Musi to learn the Holy Book to the best of his individual capacity. The old generation of Musi residents in villages leant the Quran through oral lessons from the senior elders and some of them might be knowing the sense of the Quranic imperatives even better than those who acquired regular academic qualifications in the Jamia Ahmadiyya.

I think even this class of people should turn their attention into this direction—they should learn to read the Quran, to know its meaning and add to their knowledge through continuous study of its commentary. An effort made with an honest intention bears its fruits. The effort that could not reach its maturity-point because of some circumstances supervening at the time or through an act of God, bears the same fruit because of its honest motivation as does the effort developing to its full fruition. As, for instance, we find among the participants in the battle of Badr, the first battle of Islam, involved into two kinds of effort. The campaign of one group ended in that battle-

field. Tbey drank of the cup of martyrdom by offering a sacrifice in the way of God and for His pleasure. There was yet another group that played with death to win the favour of God in the Badr battle-field and later in every battle-field and in every campaign they gave evidence of their sincerity, purity of intention and personal attachment to Allah. Apparently the sum-total of their sacrifices gives the impression of being much greater and far varied than the sacrifices that were followed by a period of reward. But it cannot be said that the sacrifices that ended in the early stage were productive of lesser rewards than the rewards earned by those whose period of sacrifices was allowed to extend further. For, the intention and the sincerity of those whose term for making sacrifices was exhausted in the early period did not indicate that they meant to make their contribution for a limited period and would end up with disregard of God and alienation from the Holy Prophet Muhammad (blessings and peace of Allah be on him). Their sole motivation that throbbed their hearts was dedication of every breath of their lives to Allah and they rendered sacrifices in the same spirit till God in His perfect wisdom put a stop to their term of works and sacrifice and started the period of reward, They entered in their new plan with the same and only motive namely that if God gave them life again they would again grapple with death as they did before. God then made the reward of their intention equal to the reward of others.

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If a Musi at the age of 75 feels he did not take so far a step toward learning the Holy Quran, and that if he took it at this stage, he will never be able to make it, I will draw his attention to what I have said just now and ask him to think over it as a case relevant to his situation. If he tried to learn to read the Holy Quran, or know its translation, or study its commentary and passed this world after covering its first verse, Allah will grant him the same reward as He has fixed for those who get a successful chance to learn the recitation, meaning and commentary of its entire text. For, an

effort that terminates not due to any lack of honesty but due to an act of God does not terminate in fact and is treated as alive in the sight of God and in the folds of His perfect control and it is in these terms that our Lord grants eternal rewards to His humble and undeserving servants. Who among men can be deserving of everlasting blessings? It is His merciful treatment of His helpless servants that allows unlimited rewards for deeds of a limited scope.

Another (the third) assignment that I am charging every Musi with, today, is to take up the teaching of the Holy Quran to two such members who have not yet read the Holy Book. This campaign should be organized properly and the concerned Nazarat (Department) should be informed.

Today, I have to say a word to the Ansars. You have become neglectful in payment of dues. May God give you the power to become alert in this behalf. But I am not so much worried in this respect my greatest concern is that you should do your duties that arise in connection with the diffusion of the teachings of the Quran. They are two. One is to teach yourselves the Holy Book and the other is to teach to those men and women whose guardians you happen to be in the sight of God and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him). You should realize these responsibilities and pay early attention to them. It is the duty of every member of the Ansarullah to take up the duty of teaching the Holy Quran to his wife and children and all the other Ahmadies over whom he is a guardian in the eyes of God ; he should see that they study the Holy Quran to the best of their abilities. It is the duty of the Ansarullah organization to heep its Central office posted about the progress made in this behalf through monthly reports.

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Khuddamul Ahmadiyya

To the Khuddamul Ahmadiyya I would say that the future responsibility for propagation of Islam shall have to be handled

by them. There should not be a single child or youth who should be unaware of the aims of the Ahmadiyya Movement and should fail in respect of the responsibility that our Lord has placed on our weak shoulders. Death is no respector of age-groups but generally speaking the balance is in favour of a teenager as against a man in his sixties. You can, if you can so persuade yourselves, file up a whole lot of bank balance. You have a long way to go yet. One who has to reap many harvests can have his barn full if he is disposed to hoard the produce. Should he dispose of it through sale, he can amass great wealth. But one who has to reap one or two harvests only, he is satisfied if he can eat to his fill. In respect of the gifts in the life-after-death, one cannot think in terms of meagre quantities and fix a low ceiling. For deserving these, one has to exert himself to the best of his God-given capacities. The Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Organization should, therefore, make a survey and keep watch so that not a single Khadim or Tifl (child) should be permitted to miss learning the Holy Quran or fail to have increased knowledge of the Holy Book.

Lajna Amaullah

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Similarly the Lajna should keep on the look-out to see whether their members and the Nasirat (little girls) are taking Quran lessons from the people appointed in this behalf. I am not charging the Lajna with the responsibility of teaching the Holy Quran to all their members that could lead to a conflict as I have already laid it down that each Musi should teach the Holy Quran to two members of the Movement. If for instance, a Musi's wife does not know how to read the Holy Book, he should first teach her. I have also instructed the Ansarullah to introduce Quran reading in the environment that comes under his guardianship. I say to the Lajna to see whether those charged with teaching the Holy Quran, to the members of the Lajna and Nasirat, are doing their duty or not. If not, then you should take up this assignment under advice to

the centre. What I am aiming at is putting every ounce of energy and utmost effort behind this push to embark on the second course in Quran teaching and emerge successfully so far as the contemporary generation of Ahmadies is concerned. This round will go on ; for new youngsters, new adults, new communities and new nations will be joining the ranks of Islam. Islam shall dominate the entire globe. It is, therefore, that you should be tutored in role of world teachers God alone knows who from among you will be granted the opportunity of opening Qurau teaching classes all over the world. But if we do not make advance preparations today, we will not be able to shoulder the responsibility that the future will place on us.

In short, all the bodies—the Musis, the Ansarullah, the Khuddamul Ahmadiyya and the Lajna Amaullah and the Nasiratul Ahmadiyya organizations should turn their whole attention to this task with utmost sincerity of purpose, enthusiasm and courage to achieve initial success in this behalf at and within the shortest period of time. The commentary aspect of the Holy Quran is, as I have said before, an unending campaign which shall keep moving.

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In this respect I feel members would do well to get a copy each of Tafasir-i-Saghir. It comprises both translation and short notes. An average reader can find in it the correct meaning of many a point otherwise looking vague.

The community organisation has a duty in this respect to see that the Quran teaching campaign makes headway. Also to see that all the other sub-organizations are doing their alloted duty—the Ansars, the Musis, the Khuddams, the Lajnas and the Nasirats.

Resist not injustice with injustice

Call of the Imam

Reciting the Verse :

ان ولی الله الذی نزل الکتاب و هو یتولی الصالحین

"Truly my protector is Allah Who revealed the Book. And He protects the Righteous",

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the Khalifatul Masih III observed :

"There are two categories of wronged people in the world. One plans to avenge the wrong, to hurt in return for injury and gives back abuse for abuse; when he is slandered or fabricated allegations are made against him and lies are spoken about him, he pays back in the same coin; when plots are made to humiliate him he cooks up counter-plots and every time he makes a plan against his enemy he is intaking his faith on it, or on his personal contacts and influence or on his knowledge, or his wisdom or his guts or his family prestige or his party. There are a thousand idols commanding his devotion and in order to meet injustice with injustice keeps the tradition of injustice alive giving it a permanent lease of life. He does not work to remove injustice. He works to keep it up and to perpetuate it. These idol worshippers, these know-nothings, these unbridled colts are according to the verdict of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessing of God be on him and his) kindling for the hell of God's anger even if one appears to be the oppressor and the other the oppressed. The Holy Prophet (blessings of Allah and His peace be on him) has said that many murderers and many of their victims will both be consigned to the hell of Divine anger. For, one who appears to be the oppressed party became the wronged person simply because accidentally his unjust plans went wrong and the plans of the oppressor became successful by chance. No doubt, the worldly eyes consider the apparently oppressed party

as the wronged one, but in the sight of God he is as much unjust as the so-called oppressor whose unjust plans succeeded. He therefore does not regard one with favour and the other with disfavour. He regards both of them with disfavour according to their intent and activity, for, both were planning to inflict wrong on each other. That one failed and the other succeeded is altogether beside the point, each of them was bent on harming the other. And yet we see in the world some really wronged people. They are the ones who never used abusive language in retaliation, never forge lies to counter lies and never give back slander for slander and when plots are made against their lives they take precautionary measures but never counter plots to kill the adversary. When their dearest ones are violently abused they grieve and smart under the cruel calumny, but they never disparage in vengeance the leaders of their tormentors. They even talk of them respectfully.

This is the exalted party of Godly people who believe heart and soul that God, the source head of all excellences and powers is their helper, their friend and master. They realize that since in spite of their utter humbleness, neglect of duties and shortcomings. He is over indulgent to them and ever ready to come to their help, they repose their faith in Him and feel they dare not do aught that He has forbidden. For they do not idolize their personal wisdom, nor do they treat their wealth as their deity nor their personal valour nor their party prestige, not their status. They truly believe in God as the possessor of all excellences, their one unique creator, Lord of providence who has given them this word that if they worshipped Him alone putting their whole faith in Him and followed His guidances and the right path He has outlined in His perfect and perfector Book. He will be their Guard and their shield.

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Therefore one who claims to belong to God, who knows His God and has full undestanding of His Uniqueness and thus finds himself rewarded with His love of rippling in his heart, he does not take to the wrong path leading to perpetuation of

injustice. In fact, such people put an end to injustice; they do not permit its growth. They receive arrows of calumny from all directons and answer back with messages of love. They are made targets of flings from all corners and are grievously hurt and put to torment and their leaders are vilely abused but they bend down before God and shoot in return arrows of prayers, the uppermost being the prayer, "O Lord these people know not, grant them knowledge so that they cease hurting Thy servants."

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Such are the people who through observing the directives of the Book gain the friendship, support and help of their Lord. He undertakes to give protection and ensure prosperity and advancement, people who have no twist in their intensions and no filth in their deeds. He becomes the care-taker of the clean-hearted who are free from every kind of internal and external wickedness. He assumes responsibility for them with a challenge to the world to go ahead with whatever plots it wants to cook up against them to find them foredoomed to failure for they have become His and have taken refuge with Him. They had a death on their ego and went through a self-cleansing process guarding themselves against every kind of defection. They became clean in His sight and He therefore became their watch tower undertaking to succour them whenever they would need His help and to be their shield whenever they need one. His power warding off the enemy attack whenever it is delivered against them and He shall neither permit their destruction nor their discomfiture. But to prove that those people are a reformed group He will certainly put them to tests. He will demand sacrifices from them on individual level their properties might be ransacked and their houses sacked and also their lives might be taken. But those who attached to Him and enjoy His closeness shall surrender everything with a feeling of inner happiness so that their sacrifices may furnish evidence confirming the truthfulness and genuineness of the claims of their other brethren; for verbal claims are meaningless and are lent the seal

of authenticity when individuals offer sacrifices at the Divine Command bringing to light the willingness of all the members of the community to make every kind of sacrifice for its cause.

Divine Protection

The Holy Quran has brought out the subject of Divine guardianship on greater deal. God provides means of satisfaction of our reasoning faculty. He assures us of His Protective care. Since Satan is very much active, therefore an apprehensive can arise in one's heart now one could possibly enjoy Divine protection at every moment of his life. The enemy is busy making secret plots and the party of Godly people is altogether unaware of his machinations. Some persons are hostile inwardly and the believing people have not the least suspicion about their animosity and know not whether they are really their friends or foes. Since the knowledge men have is so very limited and imperfect, the Holy Quran comforts us with the words:

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و الله اعلم باعدائكم (4 : 46)

Allah knows about your enemies far more than you know. He knows the hidden enemies, their underhand conspiracies and their underground hostilities. And since His knowledge comprehends everything and you have made Him your Guardian, you should feel secure

و كفى بالله وليا و كفى بالله نصيراً

(4 : 46)

The One Who has all comprehensive knowledge and Whose power suffers no inadequacy is alone worthy of being the guardian. This has been emphasized in order to instil it in our minds that when the help of Allah comes, no power can succeed in thwarting it. It is said in this context in Sura Fatir :

و ما كان الله ليعجزه من شيى فى السموات و لا فى الارض

(Fatir—44)

And Allah is not such that anything in the heavens or

the earth should frustrate His plans. When Allah becomes somebody's guardian His servant can fully depend upon Him since he knows none in the earth or in the heavens can frustrate the design of Allah, for, His knowledge and His power have contained everything. No secret attack can be made on Him because He is all-knowing and no successful attack can be mounted against Him because He is mighty and possessor of every kind of power; there is no one in the world, nor is the entire universe collectively with any power to interdict the design of Allah once He makes a decision, or when He takes up the defence of His people, a successful attack against them could ever be pushed through. He is the almighty and everthing is in His grasp. Nothing can transpire against His will. Since He is the Knowing, the Mighty, no plan can out-do His Plan and we can say of Him

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نعم المولى و نعم النصير (22 : 79)

He is the best Master and the best Friend and the greatest helper and protector. His Devotees and His people are given to placing full faith in Him alone. Our bodies suffer on account of emotional pressures. There is no escape from that. But we are not chicken-hearted. We never entertain feelings of despair and our hearts are never assailed with misgivings about our Lord. We do feel hurt but our souls are illumined with Divine light of Allah and His voice gives us comfort inspiring with confidence and imparting the assurance that the one whose plan none could contrive to undo was our ally and defender. The members of the community should therefore work hard to gain the protection of Allah Who has granted the unfailing guidance of the Holy Quran, take Him seriously and truly for their sole master and become His servants in His sight. This is possible only through following the Book. Only one who offers whole-hearted obedience can derive benefit from this perfect Book, following its guidances with a fully alert mind. One who is no perfect in obedience and lags behind in endeavour he cannot qualify himself for Divine help and support in the manner and measure than

the person or persons who render total obedience and exert themselves fully without slackening their pace in the effort.

Allah is then the Guardian but He is the Guardian of those who followed the Book, who heard hurting things and remained patient to deserve the pleasure of God who bore hardships the rivals inflicted on them without protest and did not revert to injustice to meet injustice. Instead they believed that God had raised them as barriers against injustice which will strike hard only to recede. that they will not let injustice proceed any further either in terms of space or time. They will be prepared to suffer all injustices and will work to save others from wrong and will never pay back wrong for wrong but will instead exude love, kindliness, compassion, goodly treatment, and truthfulness, so that God may be pleased with them and grant them refuge, treating them as His faithful servants in the true sense, Himself becoming their Lord in every respect, taking care of all their burdens, saving them from every plot, conspiracy and attack of the enemy. This is how they can enjoy security and there is no other way.

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Every step the community takes, every thought it expresses and every deliberation it is involved in, should show that it takes God as its guardian and that we fear none beside Him nor can anybody frighten us nor because of the might of anybody we entertain any apprehension of our failure. We are an oppressed people and shall stay that way and will never become tyrants. Instead we shall wipe out injustice and we shall put out the fire of tyranny with the water of campassion and fellow-feeling so that the fireworks of Satan are extinguished. We will not add to it the fuel of anger and arrogance and shirk (assiciation of partners with the One true God).

In short, the community should keep up the prayer that they attain to the position pointed out in the Verse ان ولی اللہ "The Lord who sent down the Book is the guardian and He befriends the virtuous believers," so that they may come under

His protection in truth and so that He may be every time disposed to help and guard them against attacks of the enemy. May He grant us the strength to tender the sacrifices necessary to qualify for that position of security so that mankind may again start living together in peace and love and mutual amity and compassionate atmosphere and the chain reaction of tyranny may end and oppression may give up its ghost, neither there be on the world scene no oppressor any more nor any aggrieved party. A brother should see around a brother only, a sister feel the presence of sister, a father see the son in the child and the child see parents in his ma and pa and the wife find the husband in her man and the man feel the wife in his mate.

In short, man should discover a fellow-man in another member of the species and the oppressor and the oppressed should be conspicuous only by their non-existence. And may all the servants of God gather together under the shadow of His Peace and Mercy and seek corner under the shelter of that great benefactor of mankind (Mohammad the Holy Prophet) and lead lives blessed with peace and prosperity and felicity.

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Observations of the Promised Messiah

"Remember that I have come to reform mankind. Whoever comes to me partakes of grace to the limit of his capacity. But I say very plainly that one who enters the pact of allegiance superficially and then his whereabouts and his activities remain unknown, there is nothing for him. He came empty-handed and went off empty-handed. Grace and blessing are attained through keeping in company. The companions took to the company of the Prophet of Allah (blessings and peace of God be on him) with the result that the Holy Prophet observed, "There is God amidst my companions". In other words the companions became the mirrors of God. Had they stayed away they would never have been able to attain to this height. This is a very important point. Staying close to Godly people means staying close to God. The Divine Command "Abide with the righteous" upholds it.

In short, keep the company of the living so that you may have a glimpse of God. (Alhakam July 24, 1902)

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Do not slacken your efforts and lose not heart. Many a people call themselves Muslim and engage themselves in unrelated affairs. But you should fear God and work out a true change in yourselves and cultivate a sense of purity and a sense of piety. Dragging feet along this path is like giving an opportunity to Satan to bre k into the house and burglarize faith. The God Who appeared to Adam and to the other Prophets made His appearance to me. God has afforded an opportunity to you to add to your knowledge, whatever you fail to understand you must freely enquire. One who says he knows before he could even grasp it, gets a blister on his heart which grows into a carbuncle and then becomes a weaping wound. I do not get tired if one continues his queries for a whole year. Value this opportunity

therefore.

Listen to me, understand and then act accordingly. Then become servants of faith (and) show truthfulness. Loving God and loving His creatures are parts of faith. Act upon them.

(Alhakam July 17, 1902)

"Sit close together. God will love you according to the measure of your love for one another". (Al-Badr Nov., 28, 1902)

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Commands of the Holy Prophet

1. Abu Huraira, a companion, says the Holy Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be on him) said, "Utter disgrace of a man lies in his miserliness and in his cowardice". (Musnad Ahmad)

2. Says Jabir bin Abdullah, a companion, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be on him) observed, "I warn you against injustice, for, verily injustice will appear like thick darkness on the day of Judgement, And guard yourselves against niggardliness. Verily Niggardliness destroyed those who were before you, inciting them to bloodshed and to profanation of their sacred things. (Musnad Ahmad)

3 Ali, son-in-law of the Holy Peophet, reports the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of God be on him) saying "People will confront a period when nothidg of Islam will have survived but its name and nothing of the Quran will be there except its script; their mosques will be congregated but utterly lacking in guidance; their priests will be the wickedest element among them; mischief will proceed from them and recoil on them."

The Signs of the Time

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ Fulfilled

Dr. Q. M. Barkatullah, Professor of Education, Jackson.

The advent of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad has fulfilled the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, it is inevitable to keep in mind as to how the Second Coming of Jesus Christ was to be fulfilled. We have a precedent that in the time of Jesus Christ the Second Coming of Elias was being awaited. Before the advent of Jesus Christ contemporaries were looking for Elias to come down from heaven before the prophecy relating to the Messiah was fulfilled. But the self same Elias did not come and Jesus said that John the Baptist was the promised Elias. (Matth. 9:137) This is to say that the same Elias did not come back, as was thought of, but John the Baptist came in the Spirit of Elias.

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Similarly when we talk of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, we should keep in mind that the self same Jesus will not come and the Promised one would be another person in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. The followers of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam do solemnly believe that the prophecy of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ has been fulfilled in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam.

About the second-half of the nineteenth century, the signs of the time began pointing to the fulfillment of the prophecy of the Second advent of Christ.

It is of great significance that the writings of that period confirm that it was the latter part of the nineteenth century when the Second Coming of Jesus Christ was to be fulfilled. Some of the references in this connection need attention and

are cited below :

1. ARMAGEDDON
or
A Warning Voice
From the Last Battle-Field of Nations
Proclaiming By The
Mouths of Prophets and Apostles,
That The
Close of The Times of The Gentiles,
The
Second Personal Advent, and Millennial Reign
of our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
Are Nigh At Hand
When God's Covenants With Patriarches, And our
Lord's Promises To His Apostles "And Prophets,
And to the Saints,
And Them That Fear His Name, Small And Great"
(Rev. xi : 18)
WILL BE LITERALLY AND COMPLETELY
FULFILLED.

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2. "If ye will inquire; inquire Ye"...Isa. xxi : 12
In Three volumes,
By Charles Beales, M.A., St. Peter's College London (1858)

Summary of the Text :

The Writer emphasized the "Signs of The Times", and concludes that the fulfillment of the Prophecy of Second Coming of Jesus Christ was quite at hand.

3. By Royse, Rev. P. E. *The Voice of the Prophets.* And the Oracles of Omaga, Proclaiming, Wonderful Tidings, About the Time of The End of This Dispensation, and the Commencement of the Millennieum : Cincinnati; 1866.

Summary of the Text :

"And I here repeat my opinion, that all the prophecies

of this chapter will be fulfilled in about twenty years from 1860, if accomplished, as these revelations have been, in regular chronological order.....This I said years ago-now being fulfilled.

And now the indications seem clear, that all these prophecies will be completely fulfilled by A. D. 1875.

4. In 1889, the American Mission published a book, *Millenium Dawn*. It says: from the creation of Adam to the year 1872 is complete a period of six thousand years, and after 1872 we enter essentially in the seventh thousand, the earlier part of which is time for the Second Coming of Christ.
5. The American Mission published yet another book, *Our Lord's Return in 1900*, proclaiming that we were living in thc time of Christ.
6. Prophecy of Prophet Daniel :[2]

"And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and abomination that maketh desolate, set up, there shall be thousand, two hundred and ninety days."

Various scholars have relied very heavily on this prophecy about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. It refers to the 1290 years of Muslim calendar which is parallel to the latter half of the nineteenth Century of the Christian calendar.

8. Title of the Book:
The End

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or

The Proximate Signs of the Close of this Dispensationary

Rev. John Cumming, D.D.F.R.S.E.

Minister of The Scotch National Church, Covent Garden, London (1879).

It says on page 15: God writes the prophecy, the

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1. Matthew; 9:13; 11:14; 17:12.
2. Daniel: Chapter 12.

journalist steps in and without thinking of the prophecy, testifies its complete and magnificent fulfillment. And therefore, one can read the newspaper now as a sort of solemn record. I do not merely refer to what the writer says in his article, but to the facts that he collects and chronicles in his columns; and those facts are just Providence translating prophecy into performance. What is history? Prophecy fulfilled? What is Prophecy? History unfulfilled?

A newspaper records a letter dated December 30, 1864. "At Vantmillo, they say, the mountain has opened, that fire issued out, and that it is now impassable. The other day the air was so hot we could hardly bear it; from the mountains too, that were covered with snow.

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It is also stated that much damage has been done at Rome. Italy begins to live with subterranean forces, Rome is doomed to disappear in a terrible convulsion.

9. Another shock of an earthquake at Constantinople..... One could find those multiplying day after day, successive shocks here and there and everywhere; so as to prove that it was the time for the fulfillment of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

10. A scholar refers to another series of striking phenomena predicted to fulfil the prophecy, that is:—"Signs in the Sun, in the Moon, and in the stars."

A figurative meaning of these signs were given to satisfy that the prophecy was fulfilled. The explanation is as follows: bright lights are being shaded; the truth of gospel is being denied or eclipsed; the visible church is passing into shadow, and the brightness of her best and her earlier days departing at least for a season.

12. Some scholars referred to another prediction that is

"there shall be pestilences and plagues in diverse places."

Reference to the fulfilment of this prophecy was made to the year 1849, when the plague burst upon the world, called cholera, widespread and desolating, moving with steady progression from the east, to the furthest and remotest west. After 1849 had ended its days of sorrows, it was not withdrawn, it was suspended for a season. In 1853 it burst upon New Castle with exterminating fury. In 1854 it was concentrated in Golden Square in its most terrific forms. Some people were heard saying: "It is not cholera, Sir, it is the black death."

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13. In America, in Italy, in Great Britain, in France, in Spain, that pestilence hangs over as it did in other parts of the earth for five years like a fall. If someone asked the most eminent and able physicians they would answer: "It is a mysterious taint, we can neither explain nor assert." In 1854 it spared no class. It was stated by medical practitioners that ordinary disease which used to be traceable in their hand had become suddenly aggravated and intensified.

14. As for the prediction of "war and rumors of war," a scholar wrote his interpretation concluding that the time had come when Jesus's second coming was to be fulfilled. The scholar asserted that the first rumor of war that started near about the last quarter of the nineteenth century was with America but it died away. The next rumor was war with France; next Italy. Austria deprecated war and Prussia was in the agony of irresolution. Hungary, long depressed in heart. Russia, believed that the hour had come when she might hurl her gigantic avalanche upon Western Europe.

15. Reverend Cumming wrote in 1879 that all the signs

of those days were preparing the way for the fulfillment of the prophecy of the second coming of Christ.

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The fulfillment of the predictions like earthquakes in divers places, plagues and pestilences, wars and rumors of wars all were preparing the way for the second coming of Jesus Christ. The Christian scholar therefore wrote in 1879 "Christ is at our door."

16. It was therefore established that later quarter of the nineteenth century was the period when the prophecy of the second coming of Jesus Christ was to be fulfilled. It was therefore fervently prayed.[3]

"Come Lord Jesus; Come quickly:
The bells of time are ringing changes fast;
Grant Lord, that each fresh peal may usher in
A era of advancememet that each change
Prove an effectual, lasting, happy gain."

17. Another Christian scholar about the fulfillment of the prophecy of the second coming of Jesus Christ established the year 1868, and exclaimed: "Even so, come Lord Jesus, come quickly."[4]

18. Scholars, Daniel and John concluded that the period commencing with 1866 was the time of the fulfilment of the prophecy of the seeond coming of Jesus Christ.[5]

19. In another study the year 1869 had been concluded to be the time for the fulfilment of the prophecy of the second coming of Jesus Christ.[6]

20. Although various scholars have given dates which differ from one another, but it is certain that all of them were emphasizing that it was the later half of the nineteenth century that the second coming of Jesus Christ was to be fulfilled. Some were fervently praying for Jesus Christ to come, while others asserted that they were living in the days of the second advent of Jesus Christ. It is also certain that most

of the scholars were aware of the fact as to how the second coming of Elijah was fulfilled.

"I am aware of an objection : It is said, "The coming of Christ referred to often in the New Testament is not a personal coming ; it is a spiritual coming ; it is a figurative occurence.[6]

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3. Cumming, Rev. John ; *The End or The Proximate Signs of the Close of this Dispersation* Bostan : Cleveland, Ohio, 1879, p. 137.
4. Waller, J.C., *The Second Coming of Christ*, The Restitution of All Things and our Lord's Personal Reign ; Louisville, Ky , 1864, p. 295.
5. *Daniel and John's Sealed Prophecies Unseald*, Geo. Baum, Indianapolis, 1853, p. 33
6. *Armageddon or A Warning Voice*, Vol. 1, London 1858, pp. 130-131.

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Letter from America

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Courts in America are not held in awe as in Britain and countries once ruled by Britain where the sentence passed by 'His Lordship' is so sacrosanct that it can be questioned or queshed only by His Lordship presiding over a higher strata in the judicial hierarchy. A US supreme court decision sharply curtailing police powers of interrogation and rendering infructuous confessions made before police circles. Police commissioner Haward Leay of New York in a biting comment said, 'How far and how long are the rights of the accused to be considered with little regard to the rights of victims". Another police officer James Kelly, president of Detectives Endorsement Association preserved in his review of the supreme court finding that the central topic of enquiry in current judicial proceedings was the conduct of police officers rather the issue of guilt and innocence. In a cartoon a New York paper showed Chief Justice Warren of US supreme court warning a killer he had surprised red-handed "Mum is the word, Bub". A caricature of this type, would have been considered impertinent in England and former British-administered countries and would have landed the editor in jail for contempt of court. No institution in America is regarded higher than its human status and gets a clobbering from the press when it deserves one. The American courts share the view and do not claim a heavenly aura. This imparts in the mind 1, a sense of humility and makes the dispensation of justice a matter of upmost concern to the conscience of the dispenser. Not that there are no corrupt judges and no instance of partisan justice in U S.A. There are quite a few who disgrace both the wig and the bench. Nor can it be claimed that justice was doled out even-handed even at early stages of American enterprize. In the stage coach period the old West had a different experience. Judges were often self-appointed

and often the temper of justice was rough and ready and its reach ineffective beyond certain limits. One magistrate kept a mail order catalogue to consult the amount of fine. He would open the book at random and name it at the sight of the price marked against the item that caught his eye first. In one case of misdemeanour, he referred to the catalogue as usual and pronounced a fine of £ 5.80. When the defendent protested, his counsel pulled him back asking him to be thankful that the judge had opened the catalogue of the page listing prices of pants and not that of pianoes. It is said of another court that when a witness, cowpoke, was badgered by the cross examining counsel, he sought the opinion of the judge that if roughed-up witness suddenly punched the mug of a harrowing lawyer how would he fare at the hands of the law. The judge, with a help-suppressed smile, said that if the witness was by any chance hinting at a certain situation and a certain person the judge also had in mind, he would get away with a 10 Dollar fine which the judge said he might at the end remit. When with a wide smile, the witness made for his quary, the counsel who had foreseen what was coming, at once declared the examination closed.

The Press

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The American Press is the courageous and out-spoken champian of the invidual's freedom of conscience. It takes special joy in exposing official inefficiencies, inadequacies of law and irregularities committed by police. It is deeply involved in social welfare of the community, in improvement of race relations, in reduction of tension and in keeping refurbished the image of America, whatever that means. When French secret army organization threatened mass genocide in order to reverse the processes of history in Algeria and obstruct a settlement, the New York Times commenting editorially said, "There are times when a collective madness seizes people. How else can one explain the activity of the European Terrorist of the French secret Army organization (O.A.S.) calmly driving through the streets of Algeria and Oran and shooting down Muslims simply because they were Muslims".

The press is interested as much in the small man as in

the tyloon and accords equal space to both the contestants, the party in power and the opposition during general election campaigning period. The New York Times has opened a Needrest case Fund, for an annual collection through public appeal during the X-mas season. It will be entering its sixtieth year in 1969. Its Donor list and collection amount have been steadily increasing and it has been grossing in recent years over 500 million.

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The President not spared

Even the President is not spared. In fact he makes a fine target. Apart from hundreds of crank letters, "obscure and nasty" piling up in the White House, crank visitors in ones and twos and groups with slogans, playcards and protests and motley beatnicks and peace-nicks, are quite a problem. Responsible criticism however is to say the least harsh enough at times even distasteful, though often justified and dignified.

President Kennedy appointed a number of judges to fill vacancies majority of posts went to Democrats. The New York Times questioned the competence of the appointees apart from the fact that most of the appointments violated the principle that judges should be beholden to none, neither to a party nor to any official. He was further accused of throwing off the political parity balance between the two parties, the Republicans and Democrats. Bobby Baker, a friend of President Johnson was involved in a court case and faced a series of serious indictments. That could, in terms of the law, earn him a jail sentence of 48 years. Bobby know it and know that he might have to fight a tough battle all along the line to get out and unscathed. In the meantime he started to put feelers through friendly journalists to guage reactions at the White House. Stewart Alsop, a famous columnist, quietly dropped the bombshell in one of his articles that Bobby was writing a book and that its first seven thousand words might interest President Lyndon Johnson. The trial had been fixed for October. Senator

High Scolt laid a bet "a thousand to one" that it will be put off till after the election. Gerald Fond Republican, in a public speech, in the Columbus accused the administration of failure to tell the public the Truth and hit out at President Johnson describing him as Nervous Nellie No. 1, adding that his popularity had plummetted to its lowest point during the past 2 years and a half. Post Master General Lawerence (Larry) O'brien was said to be taking an active part in promotion of President's US savings bond drive. He was said to have notified all key officials that the President was personally following the campaign. U.S. Department heads started pressuring their subordinates to bye bonds whether or not they could afford to do so. In its editorial comment, the Daily New York called it blackmail and just said "Lay off Larry-or kindly call Larry off, Mr. President."

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Mr. Kennedy had his full share of early morning calls from reporters who could not wait until Dawn asking questions about steel price raise and subsequent action by president. Messages to Kennedy on order reversing steel price raise : "Stop shaking your fist at American people"....." Ask Khuruschev for advice—Please do not destroy free enterprize, it has been good to your family. We don't need a Hitler in the White House....."On what meat doth this our Ceaser feed ? "

The big blast however came from the Big Ten House-Senate Republicans who accused President Kennedy of using naked political power and of directing or supporting moves "that imperilled basic American rights, went far beyond the law and were more characteristic of a police state than a free government. "About the steel price raise the statement said, "we condone nothing in actions of the companies except their right to make an economic judgment without massive retaliation by the federal government".

Basic Rights

A soldier ran in to trouble with army officers for writing

to the Senate Protesting delay in setting the date for his return to civil life and faced court martial. The army action was interpreted as "an abridgement of the rights of every American to voice his opinion to Congress. He was let off.

Capital with Conscience

The spirit of free enterprize finds its true fulfilment in U. S. A. where government monopolies are unheard of and individuals run every commercial enter-prize from bus service to railroad, air service and maritime traffic, scramble for more money and money making undertakings is the constant tempo of the society making every move and halt in pragmatic terms. The scene resembles very much a gold rush and many weaklings fell by the road. These hardship cases are the responsibility of the society. American capitalism recognizes this and tries to take care of its victims. Hence the stress in social welfare and community service which finds expression in a nation-wide net-work of aid centers devoted to finding jobs for the unemployed, arranging sessions with the psychiatrists for the emotionally disturbed, accommodation for the homeless, aid to travellers, homes for the orphans and aged and security for the washed-out. Wealthy individuals and corporations donate millions to schools, colleges, universities, foundations hospitals, research projects, churches, cathedrals and homes. It is through sharing hard times, hard work and its fruits that the American prosperity has burgeoned. There is more of cooperation than of competition in its drive that makes American capitalism a far better, healthier and saner choice than its ruthless and cold—blooded rival, Marxism.

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Big Brother or step-Brother

With vast opportunities open to the individual in the sprawling arena of American prosperity, the American has come to regard the rest of the world as his backyard and its destiny a matter of his personal concern. But his role as the Big Brother has vitiated into that of a partisan policeman a step-brother, in quite a few conflicts, in Kashmir and Palestine in particular.

One is assailed with grave doubts about the bonafides of American approach to these international conflicts. America has no business to be in the U N, Big Four or, for that matter, even an ordinary member of that body if it must both hunt with the hound and run with the rabbit at the same time. But it has been playing the double role since the day it sponsored the free plebiscite resolution for the settlement of Kashmir dispute.

Arab-Jew Conflict

In the Middle East politics now centered around Arab-Jew conflict, the American diplomacy has been openly Pro-Israel. In fact the Hebrew state owes its birth to the U. S. State Department with USSR standing by as the maternity nurse. That Christian America should treat Israel as its protege, a traditional enemy of faith, against Arab states that offer a vast market to American goods, does not sound a paying proposition. It is neither good politics nor good business. But perhaps it is both. Israel is an enemy. The Jew has been eating long with the economy of America, in fact of Britain, Canada and some other European countries too. He is now a co-sharer in the prosperity of the White man and has the protection of law and all the liberal institutions of the West. The days of open anti-semitism are gone.

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The Arab is an enemy. Christian knights lost their lives in the Middle East, the Bible land, during the wars of the cross. They are part of Christian history and Christian heritage, in fact, they are the white man's legacy, his burden and his mission. And Middle East is oil rich and getting up to realize its potential, its strategic advantage and it is the hub of Islamic life all Muslims, over 600 million, gravitate to it spiritually,

The Arab and the Jew are traditional enemies, The two must continue to hurt each other. That is the line—the white man's line. Both the Arab and the Jew depend on White sources for military hardware. The wealth of both will be flowing into the coffers of White suppliers. Both will turn to white powers

for help, for arbitration and for justice.

There is already an understanding between the White East and the White West—the capitalist and communist bloc that the world belongs to the White man and that therefore the white powers whatever their ideologies must work out a mutual co-existence policy. Should they ever fall out, they should fight their shooting wars in other lands, in non-White lands.

They have already fought two fratricidial wars in Europe and that's about enough. That's what Macmillan thought in 1961 and then the idea caught on, with Khuruschev and Kennedy falling in step.

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Washington D.C. A.G. Soofi

BOOK REVIEW

What is this Jewish Heritage?

Ludwig Lewisohn
Schocken Books Inc.
67, Park Avenue, New York 16, N.Y., USA. $ 1.25

The Jew has been the problem child of history. Flushed with a sense of racial pride as the chosen of God, historically his fate has been one of suffering, persecution and pogroms. In Christian Europe as much a victim of Church fury as in Communist Russia, he found peace nowhere, not even in what he has been building up as his homeland.

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Did the Jew ever enquire into the causes of his untold and unremitted suffering? The people of the covenant as the Jews believe themselves to be and very rightly, owed it to themselves to relate their wretchedness to some lapse on their part, for, God is just and does not wrong His creatures in the smallest degree. They could have easily recalled the curses of Moses. "Cursed shalt thou be in the city and cursed shalt thou be in the field. Cursed shalt be the fruit of thy body and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine and the flocks of thy sheep. The Lord shall smite thee with a consumption and a fever and with an inflammation and with an extreme burning and with the sword and with the blasting and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish. And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. The Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. And thy carcase shall be meat unto all the fowls of the air and unto the beasts of the earth and no man shall fray them away. And thy life shall hang

in doubt before thee: and thou shalt fear day and night and shalt have none assurance of thy life". (*Deut* : 28 : 16-66)

The Jews went through all this, their misery extending over the centuries and yet they never once turned to God with repentant hearts and with a renewed resolve to honor the covenant, the mainspring of their arrogance and equally the only possible source of their deliverance. The entry of Jesus on the scene furnished them an occasion to make up with God; for, he had come "not to destroy but to fulfil". With the exception of a handful, the rest of the Jews made life too difficult for him. He was forced to seek refuge elsewhere.

Jews again had a chance to come back to the fold. They again disregarded their heritage, that transcendent experience, that reaffirmation of loyalty to One God, as the author so aptly describes, they made at the foot of the Mount: "I am the Lord thy God which brought thee out of the land of Egypt from the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods before me. I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee and will put my words in his mouth and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass that whosoever will not hearken nnto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him". (Deut 5 : 6 Deut : 18:18-19)

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And when he raised that Prophet (Muhammad) from among their brethren (the Ismailites), except for a couple of Jews of Medina and a Jewish tribe of Nisibin, all the Hebrews of his day rejected him. "Hear O Israel" again said God in the Holy Quran "remember my favors to you — I exalted you above contemporary nations" and again He said, "Keep your covenant with me. I will keep my covenant with you and fear me alone."

But they went after mammon and worshipped the golden calf until they were scattered all over the world and found peace not in Europe but in Muslim Spain, in Muslim Middle East and later in the new world.

Not all Jews, however, have been impervious to the appeal of Islam. Some felt the inner urge to keep the covenant they had made with their Maker and joined the ranks of Muslims. They were the Sulaiman Khel, the Harun Khel, the Musa Khel, the Yahya Khel, the Daud Khel, the Isa Khel, the Yusuf Zai, and the Jaduan tribes settled in Afghanistan after their capture by Nebuchadnazzar. Then there were the people of Kashmir, decendents of Jewish tribes spirited away from their homeland, long before the advent of Jesus of Nazareth.

The author is right in claiming a *recurrence* in the history of the Jew. It is that pledge under the Mount that echoes and re-echoes in the Jewish history and visitations will be on the heels of respite as a part of Jewish life and God will not rest until the Jew comes home with no God before Him or until he perishes. The Israel State is the finale of that great movement initiated through Moses, for the liberation of Israel as God's people. Jweish history presents a two-way traffic and the present restoration to homeland of the scattered tribes is the gathering of the storm, a rekindling of the fire in the bush and has only one meaning and no other. The Jew must now choose to stay with God as a co-sharer with the Arab, not in the land of Israel, but in the hegemony of Islam and find his place with his brethren—the Ismailites, for, the day of Israel is over and the Mantle of Moses has fallen on Muhammad in a far greater glory than has been the lot of any man. The battle of Israel will not be decided by nuclear weapons. It will be decided by the thunder and fire that the early Jew knew of at the foot of the Mount. That experience was his liberation. The forthcoming repeat manifestation may be his annihilation. It is not the Arab, the divided and defeated Arab who is at the helm. God is at the helm and the Jew, the Israel, is the target, with a choice to come over to the camp of Ishmael, (Islam) or fade out.

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But for the Muslim world offering a haven of safety to the 'wandering Jew', left to the tender mercies of his Christian

cousins, the Hebrew would have long been as extinct as the dinosaur. The tragedy of Moorish Spain hit both the Jew and the Muslim. It hurt the Jew more and what followed was termed as the second dispersal of Beni Israel.

The Jews suffered their worst fate in history at the hands of Hitler and soon after they found their dream come true—they built their homeland. And they gave the Arabs, exile, deprivation and death. They are still practising against their neighbour the tyranny they themselves suffered at the hands of the 'Huns', believing with the naivete of an ostrich that they will never be its victims again.

A. G. Soofi

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